

# Disposal of Cigarettes

If you smoke, put it out. All the way. Every time.

Improperly discarded cigarette butts and other smoking materials have long been a nuisance, but they also put property owners, managers and tenants at risk. Smoking is the leading cause of fire fatalities in our state. Tragically, smoking related fires claimed the lives of 14 people in 2006 and 9 people in 2007. Fire agencies reported 465 fire incidents in 2007 caused by cigarettes resulting in more than \$1.4 million in dollar loss. When children live with smokers, there is an increased risk of child-set fires because of the availability of matches and lighters.



## Safety Tips

- ◆ Use a sturdy ashtray with a wide, stable base or a can filled with sand to collect ashes.
- ◆ Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away.
- ◆ Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash.
- ◆ Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast. Don't put ash trays on them.
- ◆ If people have been smoking in the home, check for cigarettes under cushions.
- ◆ Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used.
- ◆ If you are drowsy or falling asleep, put it out.
- ◆ Never smoke in bed.

## Keep You Home Safe

- ◆ Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- ◆ Get smoke alarms that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. They are called "Dual Sensor Smoke Alarms."
- ◆ Check smoke alarm batteries at least once every year. You can use a familiar date such as when you change your clocks or your birthday, as a reminder.
- ◆ Create an escape plan. Plan two ways to escape from every room. Practice the escape plan with everyone in the home.
- ◆ If at all possible, install residential fire sprinklers in

## Improperly discarded cigarettes could cost you

- ◆ Smokers should fully extinguish their cigarettes in a non-combustible container or ashtray.
- ◆ Do not throw lit cigarettes out of moving vehicles or directly on the ground, not only does this action increase the potential for a fire, but it is considered littering and can result in a \$1,024 fine per RCW 70.93.
- ◆ Also, if the cigarette causes a fire, the litterer could face criminal charges.

## Plan Ahead



By planning ahead, you can do a lot to prevent a fire. But, once a fire starts in your home, there are only three things to do: get everyone out of the house, close the door behind you, then, call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's home. Don't go back into a burning building, no matter what. If you think someone is trapped inside, tell the firefighters when they arrive.

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